

BARRE DAILY TIMES

SATURDAY, JULY 7, 1917.

Entered at the Postoffice at Barre as Second-Class Mail Matter.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES
 One year, \$3.00
 One month, .25
 Single copy, 10 cents
 Published Every Week-Day Afternoon by
 THE BARRE DAILY TIMES, INC.
 Frank E. Langley, Publisher

Canada is following a good example in going in for universal conscription for military service.

It transpires that the Montpelier city council's vote in accepting the proposed new franchise for the Barre & Montpelier Traction & Power company was four to three, the mayor casting the deciding vote.

The sympathy of the entire newspaper fraternity of the state, as well as of a great many other friends, will be extended to Editor Luther B. Johnson and family of Randolph in the death of the eldest child, Paul W. Johnson, who had been associated with his father in the conduct of the Randolph Herald and News since his graduation from Dartmouth college. The young man had served as local editor of that paper and had given evidence of much ability in newspaper work.

The Groton Times is another of the weekly newspapers in Vermont which has felt the force of rising prices of materials used in newspaper-making, and it announced in the most recent issue that after July 1 the subscription price of the paper would be \$1.25 a year, instead of \$1. The increase of 25 cents is slight indeed, and the contemporary ought not to lose a single subscriber because of the larger cost of the paper. Fifty-two copies of a local paper should be worth as much as two and four-tenths cents apiece, only slightly more than the price of a postage stamp.

Another Vermont paper which is feeling the depressing influence of growing prices of materials is the Londonderry Sifter, which announced recently that it was forced to reduce the size of its weekly to a six-column quarto. Moreover, there are several others which are considering moves to bring the expenditures more nearly in accord with the income. Self-preservation demands the change.

How did it happen that Governor Graham did not let Barre in on one of the home guard companies? About every recognition so far to be handed out in this county has been turned over to Barre. Not that Waterbury gives a continental Johnny cake—but we do feel the situation keenly from Montpelier and Northfield.—Waterbury Record.

Barre scarcely knows what the contemporary means about "every recognition" being "turned over to Barre." To be sure, Gov. Graham named a Barre man to fill out the unexpired term of the state's attorney and two Barre men were named on the exemption board under the federal selective draft act, and along with the latter job went a tremendous amount of responsibility; but, surely, those appointments are not enough to give rise to the assertion that Barre is getting all the recognition in the county. In fact, when it comes to getting the honors of Washington county Barre has to take a back seat, for Waterbury has one of the assistant judges and Woodbury the other; Montpelier has the county clerk; Plainfield has the high bailiff, Montpelier has the sheriff; Montpelier has the probation officer and Montpelier has the county treasurer, while Barre has the judge of probate. Not much evidence of Barre trying to "hog" the honors of the county in that list, surely. Moreover, Waterbury forgets that it has one of the largest public institutions in the state, namely, the state hospital for the insane. We feel sure that in looking over the situation again the contemporary will surely claim that Barre is getting all the recognition, or anywhere near the recognition which its size and business importance would seem to warrant.

NOT REPRESENTATIVE OF UNITED STATES.

Our friends and our enemies across the water will perhaps find in the outrage committed at East St. Louis, Ill., a proof that American life is filled with its rotten spots. They may even consider that the reign of anarchy for the period of a few days is more or less indicative of the flimsy foundation on which democracy—American democracy—rests. However, East St. Louis is by no means a typical American community. It is a hybrid city. Moreover, those who have visited the city and talked with its people tell us that it does not represent the highest type of American municipal government. There is something more than mere racial differences between the whites and the blacks which lies at the bottom of the murder, arson and pillage of the last few days. East St. Louis is one of those fast-growing, irresponsible communities in which the unsettled element of the body politic constitutes a powerful influence. East St. Louis is not a good type of the American municipality and will not be until some powerful factors, well-grounded in the highest instincts, come to the surface and claim the control of the community. No doubt there are a great many people of East St. Louis who deplore such an occurrence as that which shocked the whole nation this week; but they have been too supine in the past. It is time for them to lift themselves in righteous wrath and wipe out the elements of civic life which permitted the stain to be made. By wiping out, we mean the submerging, not the annihilation, for all communities have reason for hoping for that result.



This is no time to "rock the boat"—but Mr. Pinhead will do it just as usual.

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just such elements, only they are able to keep them in subjection. Therefore, East St. Louis has a chance to redeem itself and to redeem the reputation of American municipal life which some unthinking people outside of the United States will ascribe to most of our cities because of this exception.

RUSSIAN REPUBLIC "FINDS ITSELF"

Even more important for the time-being than the material gains already made by the Russian troops on the Galician front is the moral effect of victory on the rising young republic which takes the place of the monarchy of the Romanoffs. A decided victory on the field of battle is likely to arouse the imaginations of the Russian people, to acquaint them with the power which already is theirs and to stimulate them to a closer and a more compact democracy. Whenever great dissensions have arisen inside nations it has been a common device to lead the dissenting elements against a foreign foe; and almost invariably the result has been that the dissenting elements forgot their differences and rallied their forces in the cause of the nation. In the throes of the new governmental birth, Russia was torn and well-nigh severed by the various elements which go to make up the political life of the people; and it seemed almost impossible to bring them together under a form of government that would be acceptable to all or the great majority of the whole. Hence the resort to the old device of going against a common foe in the hope that the internal discord might be ironed out. Kerensky as the leader of the scheme was well chosen, for in him the Russian people seem to place considerable faith. And Kerensky it was who was chosen to give the signal for the new offensive which was started on July 1, albeit General Brusiloff undoubtedly was the military genius behind the movement. Marked success has crowned the early efforts of the Russian forces which have taken the field against Germany, Austria and Turkey. To be sure, the Russian revolutionary army probably was not faced by such stiff opposition at the outset as faced Brusiloff one year ago, because Germany had diverted part of her eastern army to meet the British, the French and the Americans, and Austria had been forced to send a large part of her available men to meet the Italians; but the central powers' line represented a hard and fast division, to break through which was an inspiring performance. And Kerensky and Brusiloff have broken through and sent the defending army back in retreat. The moral effect of the initial victory must be tremendous if the Russians are gifted with imagination. It ought to enable the young republic to find itself, so to speak. It ought to give the new government a constantly growing foundation on which to appeal to the people for the building up of a great nation. There is strong reason for hoping for that result.

CURRENT COMMENT

Round Up the Suspects.

It was through no fault of German spies, or Americans serving as spies for Germany, that American transports, en route to France, were not torpedoed and sunk. Germany knew every detail of the plans for transportation and had her U-boats in waiting where they never would have been had they not hoped to and deal to this country a crushing blow surprise the Yankee soldiers and sailors and warning blow.

Thanks to the efficiency of the convoy the scheme came to naught, but other plans are being made for future movements, and every one of them, in all probability, will be scrutinized as fast as made by emissaries of Germany in Washington. It is for this government to round up all suspects and to do so without delay, and there must be no hesitation because, possibly, some of those already under suspicion are well placed socially or otherwise.

Men and women in this country who accept Hunnish leadership accept gladly the duty of plotting in any way possible against the welfare of the United States and its people. The punishment meted out to them when captured should be such as to make at least a skin-deep impression on those who planned and applauded the Lusitania massacre.—Boston Traveler.

An Abuse of Language.

The men who are daily telegraphing from Montpelier to world's-end and intermediate stations alarmist reports of conditions in city and county in regard to poliomyelitis would deserve better of their neighbors and fellow-citizens were they to show reasonable restraint of language and some sense of the relative proportion of things.

The present appearance of poliomyelitis in Washington county cannot be called, accurately, an epidemic. It is merely an outbreak of the disease—dangerous, of course, and calling for prompt and effective measures of sanitation, but surely not an epidemic, for an epidemic spreads through a community like wildfire, and the home is fortunate which escapes it. As to Washington county, it appears that in the entire county there are at present 22 cases of poliomyelitis. As the total population is about 44,000, there is then one case of the disease to each 2,000 people. It is an alarmist indeed who could regard one case of disease among two thousand people as an epidemic. Why not call it an outbreak and let it go at that instead of straining out words to fit large words to the emergency?

We would not look through the wrong end of the telescope at such an outbreak as that in the center of Washington county, nor even at a single case of such a threatening, sinister disease, but why frighten the local public and perhaps cause needless anxiety through half the state by a verbal exaggeration wholly inaccurate and entirely uncalled for?

Twenty-two cases in the county would, if the distribution were equal, be one case in 20 square miles, which would seem to indicate that the patients are not unduly crowded. But if Barre and Montpelier take more than their share, there is nothing in the Sherman law to prevent it, and the country districts would show a still bigger proportion of square miles to the case.

Moderation in everything was one of the mottoes the Greeks inscribed on the great temple of Zeus at Olympia. Let us borrow the thought and apply ourselves, when it seems desirable, to moderation in language.—Burlington News.

"Passive Goodness" in Vermont.

Baccalaureate sermons this year have generally had something of the ring of war in them. We should certainly have expected a clarion note or two from the president of the university of that erstwhile warlike state of Vermont, in harmony with the tendency. Great is our surprise, therefore, to take up the verbatim report in the Burlington Free Press of the baccalaureate address of President Guy Potter Benton, of the institution named, and to find its theme to be "The Merit of Passive Goodness." Passive Goodness! The doctor could not give his hearers enough of it. Through six columns of space this Vermont educator exalted that peaceful virtue, giving out as he did so such rays of composing thought as the following:

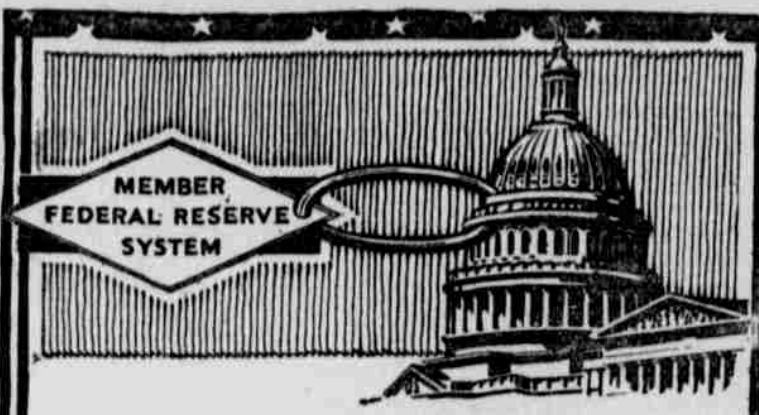
"Cold passivity is more valuable as a social asset than feverish activity. Active service that is worth while is the concrete expression of passive goodness. No life can be poured out in deeds that count unless it reaches down deep into a heart center where the still waters flow inexhaustible in clarity and purity.

Strengthen yourselves for the conflicts which await you by the stern resolve that come adversity or prosperity, you will establish yourselves in the possession of that passive goodness which will bring you contentment despite all contrary winds. "There are those in this class who already wear the soldier uniform of our country. It is a badge of high honor and yet, let me remind you, if you would make it mean all it should mean it must stand for the firm strength of passive character rather than for the bluster of spectacular action." Possibly the merely passive goodness which the state of Vermont has shown in the war thus far, and its aversion for anything like spectacular action, are due in some measure to the exhortations and the influence of President Benton. Enlistments in Vermont have not been what they should be. There is nothing to encourage them in such profound moral utterances as the above. It is true that Dr. Benton went on to praise the men of the senior class who had the spirit to stand before him in khaki. He could not very well have done otherwise. But there was about his praise a labor of restraint, a solemn attitude of balancing, as if he were afraid that he would really say something on the side of the war in which his country is engaged, that made this portion of the address really pitiable.

What can have happened to the state of Vermont?—Boston Transcript.

Covetable Resources.

Cotton, which sells now above 25 cents in the American market, is unobtainable in Germany. Muriate of potash, an indispensable ingredient of a properly balanced fertilizer, remains locked up in Germany, and cannot be had here. Another indispensable fertilizer element, Chile nitrate, is coming freely from South America to the entente powers, while in Germany electrolytic nitrates, made from the air to take its place, cost



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the Germans a disproportionate expenditure of coal, and fail to produce equal results. France and Italy, in turn, suffer above all for coal, of which their own available supply, as the military lines now run, is insufficient.

It may be said that the greater number of the chief powers involved in the war hold a monopoly of some special necessity, and that each lacks material held exclusively by the other side. Without the German potash, French and American phosphate, American cotton, British-controlled nitrate and American petroleum no country can go on permanently without making great material changes and losing a great part of its wealth and even its population.

It is notable that Germany, although well situated in regard to the remarkable complete monopoly of one indispensable, namely potash, hoped to acquire from France by conquest the possession of the greatest iron ore field in Europe, and so establish what might approach another monopoly, while by holding Antwerp she still hopes to monopolize continental Europe's greatest seaport. America is fortunate enough to possess, apart from resources of other kinds, its phosphate beds, cotton belt and coal oil fields, producing things that are essential to all the world and can hardly be duplicated elsewhere.

German thought is at present engaged in speculations as to what material and selfish motive the United States may have had in entering the war. The answer is, every reason; not only the need to uphold the country's honor, or its sympathy with democratic causes, or to express aversion to cynical German behavior, but also the material and hard-headed need to check a raider nation that has a covetous eye upon all possessions of special gifts of nature.—New York Evening Sun.

Unthinkable.

She—What do you think of matrimony?
 He—Sorry, but I'm married already.—Philadelphia Record.

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